the Nation

Volume 2 No. 2 • December 16, 1994
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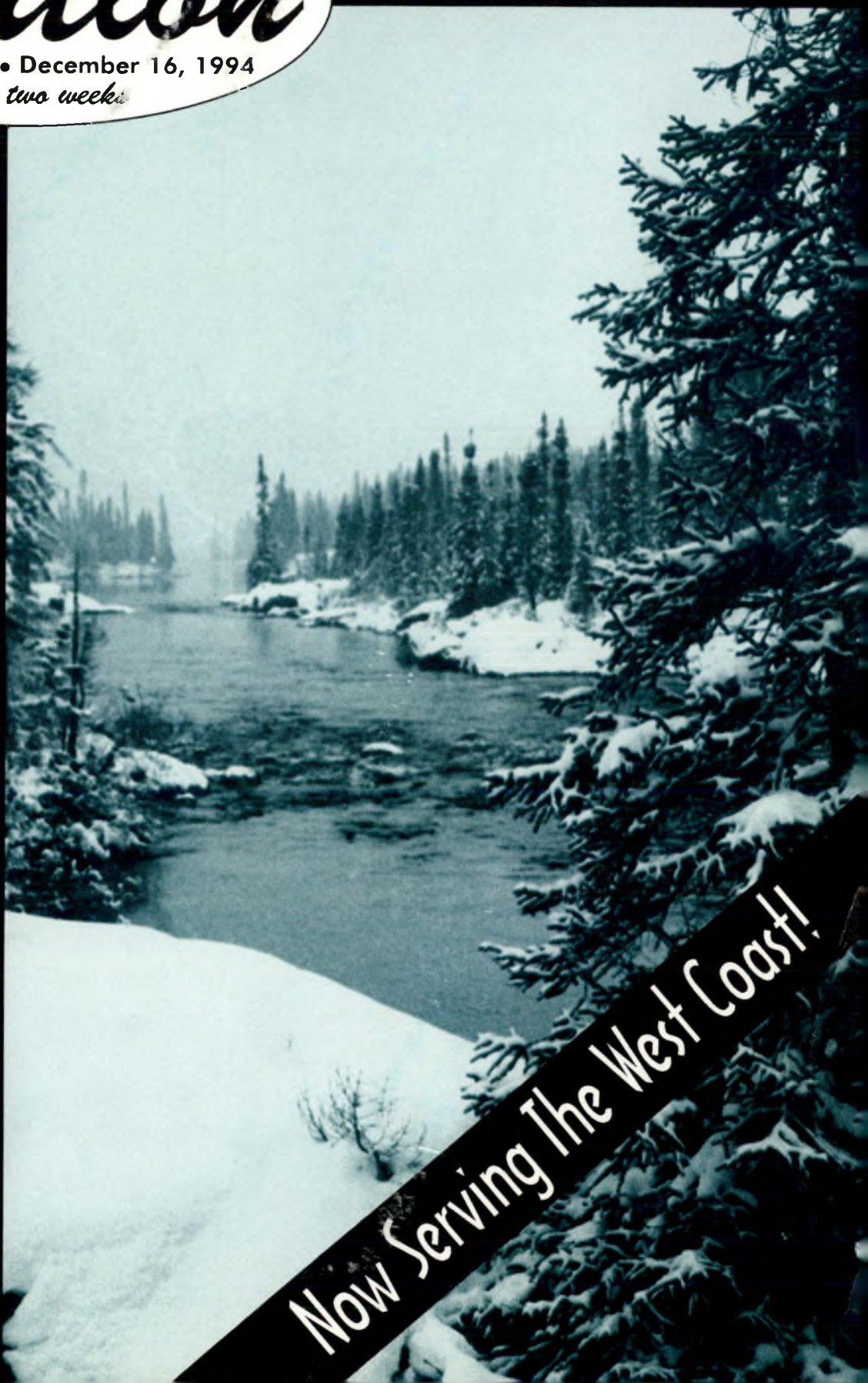

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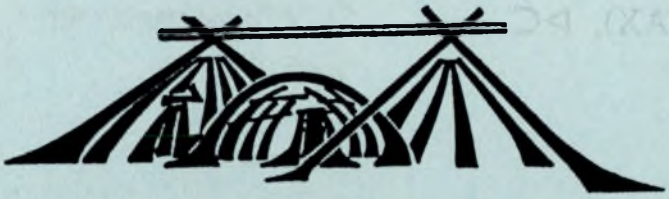

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The Nation is going to go free. Yes, free.

We appreciate the support of everyone who has shelled out their buck-fifty over the past year. We couldn't have done it without you. Now we have come to the point where we believe we can offer *The Nation* in all James Bay Cree communities (east and west coasts) and pay for the costs mostly through advertising. This is being done so everyone who wants to read about the Cree Nation's news, culture, sports and views can do so.

From now on, *The Nation* also offers syllabics for your reading enjoyment. So get your stories and legends in. We're asking people particularly Elders to write in syllabics and send it in.

This issue is our last one until the new year. The staff of *The Nation* would like to extend our best wishes to everyone during the holiday season and thank you again for your support. Drive safely. Meegwetch.

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COVER PHOTO
Stream at west end of Lac Trefart, Oct. 1972.
Taken by Boyce Richardson.

DECEMBER 16, 1994

Reaching out across the bay

This issue marks the beginning of a new direction *The Nation* is taking in the future. First of all, the paper will be expanding its coverage area to include the Western James Bay communities within the Muskegowuk region, my home.

In the past year, I have heard about the work that *The Nation* has been doing in serving the people of northern Quebec. And I always thought it would be great if the same coverage was given to the communities of northern Ontario. So I was quite thrilled when recently I was asked to come on board with *The Nation* to help in expanding the paper's coverage to include the Muskegowuk communities.

It was quite exciting getting back into the journalism mode after leaving Wawatay Television in 1992. I wasn't quite sure if I had lost my knack of covering news. But that changed when I started talking to people on the phone back home in Moose Factory. It was after my first conversation with the people up there when I realized that some of the things I was hearing then are still the same issues being dealt with two years later. But at the same time, small changes have occurred that I only recently heard about. This was especially true since living in Montreal for the past two years, I've had to catch up with what is happening in the communities up north.

It made me realize that being away from home has reopened my eyes once again to the struggles that our people are dealing with back home. And also how important it is to let people know what is happening in these communities. I hope this new direction *The Nation* is taking will help bring the issues more in the open and make a difference for change.

Communication has always been a very important part of Cree life. The stories from the voices of the people were always been a big part of my life growing up. Hearing my grandfather and father has made me appreciate the importance of knowledge. Knowledge of who you are as Cree people, and never forgetting that. I hope this expansion of coverage will bring the Cree communities of the north, south, east and west together as one voice. And at the same time not letting the invisible boundaries that have been imposed on us get in the way as to who we are, a Cree Nation.

BY PAUL M. RICKARD

the Nation

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NEIL DIAMOND

Before Ron Irwin even got to the east coast of James Bay recently, he had nationalists all riled up over his apparent insensitivity to the Quebecois people. The trip went off without a hitch.

IRWIN TOUR DISAPPOINTS WEST COAST LEADERS

Indian Affairs Minister Ron Irwin's recent "fact-finding" visit to Western James Bay left local leaders frustrated because they felt he failed to make any commitments to solve the problems they are facing.

"Most of the people I talked to were a little frustrated at the outcome of the trip," said Rosanne Archibald, Chair for the Mushkegowuk Council. "He didn't do a whole lot in terms of making commitments or promises or any real suggestions, especially in the main area people focused on, the housing situation."

Archibald made her remarks after she accompanied Irwin on his one-day trip to Fort Albany, Kashechewan, Attawapiskat, New Post and Peawanuck. The tour is part of his on-going "fact-finding" mission to talk to Native leaders across the country.

Attawapiskat Chief Ignace Gull said the minister only spent a couple of hours in his community, which wasn't enough—that he just rushed around and then took off to the airport. "I felt when he left he didn't have the answers to solve the problems."

In Attawapiskat, the minister was shown the conditions of the community, such as the lack of housing, no running water or sewage and lack of proper roads—"things that the federal government should be responsible for," Chief Gull said. He added that the community doesn't have the ability to build housing itself.

Chief Gull took the minister to see the problems with housing for himself. "We wanted him to see at least four houses—one of the most crowded homes with no running water, a typical INAC (Indian and Northern Affairs) housing. He only saw one and took off to the airport."

Virtually no houses in the community have running water or sewage. The Chief presented Irwin with a 1992 housing study done by the Band Council that showed the high levels of overcrowding and the stress and other social problems that result. Chief Gull said action is needed now to solve the crisis.

Andrew Reuben, Chief of Kashechewan, echoed the other west coast leaders' concerns about the minister's lack of commitment. "They say, 'We'll do as much as we can.' You don't get commitment from these guys," he said. "But I think it was a good idea. I really wanted to have him come. It's important for the ministers to see the conditions early in their mandate, because people are suffering here."

In Fort Albany, the minister was greeted by a rally of students from St. Anne's School who chanted, "We want a new school." Mushkegowuk Chair Rosanne Archibald commented, "The minister was caught off guard by the incident." She went on to say that he had no reponse to the students' demands. For years, Fort Albany has been pushing for a new school. The existing building also houses the Band Office and Education Office. The building is also extremely run down and constantly needs repairs. At one point, the school closed down after asbestos was found in the ceiling and walls.

The minister was also supposed to visit Moose Factory, but Chief Ernest Beck and his Band Council declined to talk with Irwin because they said a one-hour meeting wasn't enough to deal with all the issues.

Still, Archibald was upbeat about Irwin's tour. "If anything positive came from the visit, the Mushkegowuk communities and Chiefs have a better connection to the minister's office. And maybe we could utilize that new relationship to make headway on different issues."

BY PAUL M. RICKARD

CUTS MAY CAUSE UNREST, KILL 1,800 JOBS

If the federal government goes through with a proposal to cut off all funds to Native friendship centres, the result will be massive social upheaval and 1,800 lost jobs, warns a leaked government document.

But that's just what Ottawa is thinking about doing as it looks for ways to cut the deficit. Federal bureaucrats kick around the idea of cutting off all funds to the centres in an internal government document leaked to friendship centres in late November. The other options discussed are cutting funding to the centres by anywhere from 25 to 75 per cent.

Federal bureaucrats paint a grim picture of the consequences of cutting off all funds to centres. In the leaked document, they warn of a "loss of a recognized, experienced and respected urban Aboriginal infrastructure," and say eliminating all funds would further "marginalize" Canada's 700,000 urban Natives, provoking "increased political activism and increased social costs."

Ottawa provided $17 million in core funding to 99 centres across the country last year. Heritage Ministry spokesman Alain Garceau said staff at the centres will have to wait until the federal budget is announced in February to find out the fate of their funding. "As far as the funding is concerned, there is no decision whatsoever," he said.

News of the possible cuts has left staff at the friendship centres across the country in a state of shock. They have mobilized an emergency campaign that includes petitions, writing letters to politicians and calling local MP's.

"We're trying to sensitize people that it would mean a reduction in services. It could even mean cutting some jobs," said Edith Cloutier of the Val d'Or Native Friendship Centre.

"It's a real kick to Aboriginal people," said Marc Maracle of the National Association of Friendship Centres. "If you look at any socio-economic indicator, Aboriginal people are at the bottom by 20 or 30 per cent. This is going to come on the backs of the people who can least afford it."

The centres are already strained to their financial limits, he said.

—Alex Roslin

LETTERS

Letters to the editor should be signed by the writer with a phone number. We will print letters anonymously but you should still include your name if you raise serious issues. Libelous, racist or sexist letters will not be accepted. Letters printed are not necessarily the opinion of *The Nation*.

MORE LETTERS AND OPINION PIECES ON PP. 27 AND 33.

Come back home, when the land is ours

Letter to the Editor:

This is a letter concerning the one that was written to *The Nation*, Volume 1, No. 24—December 2, 1994—1st Anniversary Issue called "Come Back Home!"

The person who wrote that letter criticizing our leaders clearly shows that he or she has no idea what our leaders are doing and what they have done for us.

Our leaders are living in the south in order to be in the heart of the battle to be close to their allies. Great battles were never fought inside a teepee, they were fought on the fields and countrysides.

Coon Come and his lawyers and consultants are fighting for our animals, people, environment and most of all, Our Land. Coon Come, I'm sure when the battle is over, wants to come home which I hope he will, wants to come home to Cree Territory and not HQ's or PQ's, but Cree Territory.

I'm getting sick and tired of hearing people putting down our leaders. These people seem to have no idea what our leaders have to go through, what they are doing for us and for our children and for our children's children, for the animals, for the people, for the environment and for Our Land.

The people who criticize should stop criticizing and stand behind our leaders and give them their full support.

As for the Grand Council, I think they should inform their people more, especially the youth—this way the misjudgement of our leaders would stop.

Keep up the excellent work Coon Come and Gang.

As for the youth, please be patient and try to understand.

Thanks for your time.

Roger Orr, Nemaska

P.S. To *The Nation*, keep up the good and interesting work. It's also good to see your picture in *The Nation*.

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YOUTH SEEK INQUIRY INTO CLEAR-CUTTING

BY ALEX ROSLIN

The youth of Waswanipi are calling for a public inquiry to allow the community to discuss clear-cutting.

The call comes in a letter from Waswanipi youth councillor Sam Gull sent to Chief John Kitchen and the Band Council. "Our land is being raped without our knowledge and consent," Gull told *The Nation*.

Gull said an inquiry would allow residents to discuss a plan for a sawmill proposed by Mishtuk, a forestry company owned by Waswanipi. Other possible topics: compensation deals with trappers and effects of forestry on the Cree way of life.

Chief Kitchen was attending a meeting of the Grand Council board in Montreal when we reached him for comment, and hadn't yet seen a copy of the letter.

But he said Waswanipi residents have already had a lot of opportunity to discuss the sawmill and get details on Mishtuk's plan. "We've been having consultations for years," he said. "Everybody's invited, the Elders, middle-aged people, trappers. Most of the time, our youth are not there."

The band holds four annual general assemblies every year, he added—more than any other Cree community.

Chief Kitchen said the sawmill is critical if Waswanipi's high level of unemployment is to be reduced, especially among youth. "It's for them. It's not for me. They need jobs," he said. "Most of the unemployed are the youth."

The Chief said the $5.2-million deal on the mill should be inked with Domtar by January and construction is to start by May or June.

The Chief also said he is insisting that Domtar accepts an environmental assessment process on the project.

But for the sawmill to succeed, Mishtuk must increase its cutting of trees on Cree lands. Gull said the disappearing forests, not just jobs, are on the minds of the youth.

"It's killing off our culture. In order for us to survive as a people, we need to protect our wildlife and our land," he said.

"Are we going to have any land left for our children? Are we just going to be talking about the Cree way of life or are we going to be practicing it?"

The call for an inquiry was supported by Paul Dixon, the Local CTA Fur Officer.

"A lot of people think this has gone on too long with only one group of people really heard," he said. "Where is this going to lead us?"

Dixon said most trappers feel they haven't been consulted adequately on the sawmill plan. "Real trappers would never agree to a sawmill because they know where they are from," he said.

If Domtar does come to Waswanipi in the end, Dixon said the company needs some definite rules. "If Domtar were to come we would want them to agree to our rules on how they would take trees out of the traplines," said Dixon, 92 per cent of whose family's trapline has already been clear-cut by loggers.

"The foremost condition that the real hunters and trappers would insist on is an environmental assessment process on forestry," he said.

OJAY GETS JACKED IN

The wait is over for the people of Ouje-Bougoumou. They're finally going to get hooked up with a half-decent phone system.

After months of wrangling between Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec and the Telebec phone company, work has just started on the phone system. "There's a definite sense of relief. There are safety issues involved too," says Paul Wertman, an advisor to the First Nation.

Quebec wanted Ouje-Bougoumou to pay for the phones itself, the first time a Native band was asked to do so in Canadian history. The band refused. That meant residents had to make do with two phones for the entire community for months. Now there are six.

One phone is shared by the band's 23 employees, who stand in line waiting for their turn. The lack of phones also affected the work of the health board, whose staff also need to call out frequently.

—Alex Roslin

GREAT WHALE FILM AIRS IN ONTARIO

Power Of The North has hit the TV airwaves in Canada. The hour-long "rockumentary" about the Cree fight against the Great Whale project was shown across Ontario by Citytv in early December.

The film comes to Quebec in January and the rest of Canada in February and March. *Power Of The North* was directed and produced by Anna Van der Wee and *The Nation*'s very own Catherine Bainbridge.

The film will be screened in Montreal on Dec. 16 (the same night that Whapmagoostui is holding its Great Whale celebration). The venue is yet to be confirmed. Watch for details on your local fax. Aftewards will be a party to celebrate Great Whale and the first anniversary of *The Nation*.

—Nation staff

POLICE DEAL FINALLY STRUCK

Crees stuck to their guns and finally won the battle with Quebec over policing.

After months of dispute, a policing agreement for the Crees was quietly signed November 23 by Grand Chief Coon Come, Deputy Grand Chief

BRIEFS CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Kenny Blacksmith, the Solicitor-General, Quebec's Premier and two Quebec cabinet ministers.

Crees will get $4.2 million next year for policing, enough to pay for 42 constables in the nine communities. The constables will also have expanded jurisdiction on Cree territories. Canada will provide 52 per cent of the funds and Quebec, 48 per cent.

An earlier public signing of the agreement was cancelled at the last moment when the Crees backed out, fearing that the event was being turned into a public relations exercise by the PQ. Cree police had been without government funding for about half a year. Cree constables walked off their jobs on Sept. 1 to protest the lack of government action. *—Nation staff*

BOOST FOOD SUBSIDY, OTTAWA TOLD

The Inuit of Nunavik are paying so much for food that households run out of food two to four times a month, says Makivik Corp.

Makivik called on the federal government to increase its northern food subsidies, instead of making more cutbacks as planned. The call came at House of Commons hearings into the subsidies held on Oct. 25.

Makivik's position was backed up by CreeCo., which also criticized government plans to cut back the subsidy.

Already, the subsidy has been slashed from $19 million in 1986 to $14.9 million last year. The value of the subsidy was further eroded by inflation and the fact that the money is now spread over more people as the northern population has grown. In 1989, the subsidy was worth $1,600 per Inuk. In 1994 it amounted to only $490.

Ottawa has even suggested it might like to eliminate the program entirely, despite the fact that food in the north costs two to three times more than in the south. Food costs in the north are also rising about two times faster than in the south.

Makivik also noted that cuts to the food subsidy would hurt poorer people especially hard, particularly Elders, unemployed hunters, people with disabilities and private sector employees who usually earn less than public servants in the north.

What's more, any cutback would come on top of big rent increases that will hit Nunavik residents as of January 1, 1995.

The average salary for Nunavik residents with jobs was $14,500 last year before taxes.

—Alex Roslin

CHAPAIS TO HOST SIX SKIDOO RACES

Need to get in shape for the Chibougamau Rallye? The Chapais Skidoo Club has announced six races this winter at the town's oval course.

The races will be held Sundays at 2:00 p.m. on Dec. 18, Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 5, Feb. 19 and March 5. Molson-O'Keefe is helping the club put on the event. Trophies are courtesy of Bombardier, Polaris, Yamaha and Arctic Cat. Prizes will total $3,200.

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—Nation staff

PARIZEAU SPARKS NEW TIFF

The PQ has done it again. In a much-publicized speech in Toronto at the end of November, Premier Jacques Parizeau put his foot in it again by referring to Crees as "our minorities."

The Grand Council was unwilling to take Parizeau's remark lying down. The Crees' response came in a full-page ad in an influential Ottawa weekly *The Hill Times*, which is read by Ottawa politicians, federal bureaucrats, lobbyists and journalists.

"Mr. Parizeau, we are not your minority," said the Cree ad in bold type. "We are not Quebec's Native nations. We are not Canada's Indians. We are our own people."

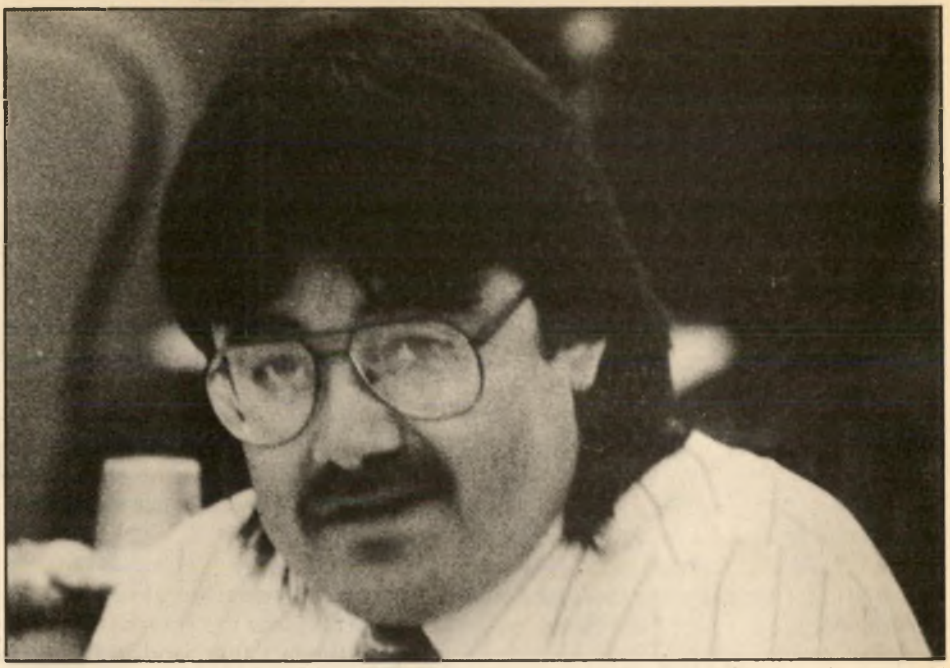
It was not the first time in recent weeks that PQ officials have made bizarre pronouncements.

Deputy Premier Bernard Landry left reporters incredulous in late November when he appeared to call for the arrest of Grand Chief Coon Come. Landry was seething over the Grand Chief's most recent speech in Washington, D.C., where he chided Quebec separatists for their "ethnic nationalism."

"Even under a freedom-of-speech context, the criminal law also exists and everything must be examined," Landry told reporters, explaining how the Grand Chief could be charged under hate laws.

"I have been a law student and there are limitations to freedom of speech in the Criminal Code."

—Nation staff



Bill Namagoose, executive director of the Grand Council of the Crees, discussed Quebec and Cree sovereignty at a talk at Concordia University in November. He said Crees are not Quebec's enemies. "When we fight against Great Whale, we are fighting *for* Quebec; for the land, for the people, for the rivers, for the animals," he said. "We are the true defenders of Quebec."

EXPORT DREAM OVER: PREMIER

Quebec's dream of becoming a super northern hydro-electric power exporter is dead, Premier Parizeau has said.

"At this moment, we know that for years to come there is far too much (electricity)," Parizeau told the National Assembly.

"The MNA for Laurier (Christos Sirros, the Liberal energy critic) should know, when he alludes to things like this, that the grand dream is over.

"Former premier Robert Bourassa dreamed of exporting 12,000 megawatts. Well, we're only exporting 1,000. Contracts were cancelled," Parizeau was quoted as saying by the *Montreal Gazette*.

The premier's comments came as he was trying to explain why he said a day earlier that he doesn't trust Hydro-Quebec's power-consumption projections.

Liberal opposition leader Daniel Johnson made a sharp retort. "We've been extremely proud, not only of James Bay but before that Manic and now Great Whale is ahead of us sometime in the future," he said.

"He wants to replace that dream of economic development with his own dream of separation."

—Nation staff

OKA INQUEST SHEDS LITTLE LIGHT

Four years after the Oka crisis, a coroner's inquest has shed little light on who killed SQ SWAT officer Marcel Lemay the morning of June 11, 1990.

The inquest spent two years probing the events of that morning. A SWAT team raid on Mohawk barricades in Kanehsatake led to a 78-day standoff between Mohawks and the SQ and army.

During the inquest, an account of the events of June 11 was published in the Kahnawake newspaper *Eastern Door*. The account doesn't identify who killed Lemay, but it does show how the SQ corporal could have been mistakenly shot by fellow SQ officers circling around to outflank the Mohawks.

The coroner's inquest revealed bad planning, poor coordination and questionable judgement on the part of SQ officers. Most recently, an SQ commander told the inquest that the SWAT raid was ordered despite the fact that police knew the Mohawks at the barricades were armed. Normal SQ procedure is to avoid attacking armed targets unless all other options have been exhausted.

—Nation staff

NATIVE SOLDIER WINS COURT FIGHT

The Canadian Forces have to apologize and pay compensation to a Native soldier who complained of being called a "wagon burner" and "spear chucker."

Melvin Swan, a former military police officer who now lives at the Lake Manitoba First Nation, will be getting $2,500 in damages plus legal expenses under a ruling from the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

The army was also told to reform its procedures on dealing with harassment.

Swan recounted numerous racist incidents during his 12 years of service. He resigned in 1988.

—Nation staff

Memories of Christmas

I woke up feeling the crisp chilly air around me. My younger sister snuggled in close to draw warmth from my back...

by Dorothy MacLeod-Nicholls

I COULD HEAR MY FATHER CHOPPING kindling on the front porch as it echoed through the cold air. The goose-feathered comforter on our bed kept the coldness out and we burrowed ourselves warm and content.

This was a special morning and one we would remember for years to come. It was Christmas morning and we were "all" home with our parents, grandparents and the people in the village.

There were 10 children in the family in which I grew up.

We had stayed behind to witness the summer end and experience the sorrows of parting as family after family of hunters left the village for their winter hunting grounds. Silhouetted against the sky were the empty tent frames of their summer homes. The forlorn howl of a dog or two who had been left behind expressed the emptiness of the village. We played and explored around the village, missing our playmates but delighted we were home.

It was an unusual Fall for our family. It was the first time in many years we were not leaving the village to go out to school. My father had been busy during the summer with a village full of people. He spent long hours in the store, flying out frequently to replenish his stock. Now he had more time to do enjoyable things with us. At times he was preoccupied with the fact that we were not in school. My mother was like a child who had been left all her toys for a longer season. We were loved and pampered by both of them and our Grandparents. We relished every moment of it.

We watched the geese fly high overhead as they made their way south. The lake gradually froze over and when it was safe enough, we had a perfect skating rink. The snow came and stayed. We had rabbit stews with huge fluffy dumplings, moose meat with plain and raisin bannock. The thought of fried fish and ducks as only my mother knew how to cook them makes my tastebuds soar. As the weather grew colder, we'd wake up in the morning making puffs of cold air with our warm breath.

First thing each morning, bare feet would hit the cold floor as my brothers would scamper to get dressed. As they raced past my mother, she would remind them to put on their hat and mitts. Making their way to the nearest toboggan, they would slide down the hill outside our door. Each one came in shivering, cupping their ears to huddle around the wood stove, sometimes arguing about who had reached the bottom of the hill first.

A huge pot of porridge sat gently bubbling on the edge of the stove. The thin layer of ice that formed on the top of the barrel of water had to be chipped away before we could wash up. It made us aware of how much more there was to do without electricity and plumbing. I remember a camp I visited many years later that had a toilet seat hanging on a nail behind the wood stove. I remember thinking, "Why didn't we think of that?'

As December approached, we felt the excitement and anticipation of Christmas. My father was preparing for his flying trips to visit the winter hunting camps. He always referred to them as "his fur-flying trips." All his dates were fixed in advance before the trappers left in August. I helped my mother prepare small bags of candies for the children. Some special orders were wrapped and identified by my mother in Cree syllabics. My father dictated all the correspondence to my mother who

"The smell of the fresh needles on the branches filled the living room..."

finished every sentence before he was finished talking. My grandfather helped my father sort out items in sections ready for each trip.

Our home became a flurry of excitement and expectations. Besides my father's trips, there was the celebration of Christmas to prepare for. My parents always kept one or two young girls at home with them. They were good company for my mother but most of all they cared for us and we loved their gentle and soft ways.

Everyone was preparing food for Christmas. Our house smelled of cinnamon and ginger. The kitchen table was covered with brown paper as my mother transferred doughnuts from the frying pan to the table.

Temptation lay before us and with eager hands we managed to pluck one each before the watchful eyes of my mother and her helpers caught us. The large cardboard boxes waited to be filled and stored away for Christmas Day. My father and the boys bundled up and headed for the woods to find the perfect tree and to check rabbit snares.

The smell of the fresh needles on the branches filled the living room. It seemed with no time to spare, Christmas Eve was upon us. The tree stood graced with beautiful sparkling and glittering decorations that shimmered in the light of the Coleman lamp that hung from a hook in the ceiling. The house cracked with the cold and cast through the lace-frosted windows its shimmering moonlight.

There is a small group of people who stayed year-round in the village. Among them was the Hudson's Bay manager and his family, the Iserhoff's and their families. These were the guests who came to share our Christmas Eve with us. They arrived pounding their feet to shake off the loose snow and proceeded to remove layer upon layer of clothing. They stood around the fire, rubbing their hands together to warm them before seating themselves in the living room. My brother and I raced to the store to help my father wrap the gifts. We sang Christmas carols with our parents and wondered why every Christmas couldn't be like this.

Doors in the north are never locked and so throughout the evening, numbers of callers came to stand by the entrance to spend some time with us. My father at the midnight hour made his way to the store and with careful instructions to keep the bedroom door closed, he would return with his booming "ho, ho, ho," and make a comment such as, "Are all the good boys and girls fast asleep.?"

Our gifts were few but somehow this

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

BOYCE RICHARDSON

Girls carry water to their homes, Mistissini, winter, 1972.

Memories of Christmas...

NEIL DIAMOND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

made them more meaningful and dearer to our memories. My gift that year was a light green velvet-covered seashell-type container which held a pearl-handled manicure set. I knew my father had bought it on one of his fur-selling trips in Montreal. There was bright-coloured scarves, beautiful embroidered mitts and slippers. Multi-coloured socks, winter hats and woolen mitts. Our stockings were filled with oranges, nuts and candy.

My parents had "open house" on Christmas Day. As each family arrived, the children picked a bag of candy from under the tree. Their parents sat drinking tea and eating doughnuts with my parents in the kitchen. I can still hear their soft laughter and happy voices echoing through my memory.

The house we grew up in has been demolished for some time. During the Christmas season we retell the stories of the many things we did together as we watch our children and grandchildren play and race around with their Christmas toys. I asked my parents why they still lived there when newer, more modern houses were being built in the village. It took my mother some time before she answered, "Because we still hear your voices echoing through the house when we lie awake at night or wake up early in the morning."

We think of Christmas as a time of gathering together and the excitement of returning home to families. It is December 6th and Elizabeth, my six-year-old granddaughter, and I have had one small glimpse of snow. The park across the street was covered lightly in a white blanket long enough to excite Elizabeth for one day. At home, up north, they're enjoying the winter outdoors and we're lonesome for snow.

My mother starts in September making slippers, mitts, socks and sometimes dresses for Christmas gifts. We have overwhelmed her with 70-some grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The community celebrates with its feasts, Christmas gifts, community concerts, dinners and parties. It also celebrates the birth of Christ. It has become an important part of the community life.

The thing I like the most about winter at home is the glittering whiteness of the snow against the cool clear blue sky. The softness of the snow beneath my moccasins as I walk along the winter paths.

The delightful squeals of the children as they slide down the hill across the bay in vision of my front window.

Each winter I toboggan down the hill, one afternoon, with my grandchildren and nieces. I squeal as loud as they do, now more from fear than delight. Age has a way of making one cautious of sore backs, breaking bones and aching muscles. I re-live my memories and build new ones with my sons and grandchildren.

May you have a wonderful Christmas, one you will remember with fond memories and cherished moments.

Have a blessed Christmas season and may you find the true meaning of Christmas. The birth of Jesus.

Looking forward to seeing you during the holidays.

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Whapmagoostui

May the love and kindness of our Creator fill your hearts this Holiday Season. Merry Christmas First Nation Brothers amd Sisters.

From Chief Matthew Mukash, Council, Elders & Members of Whapmagoostui First Nation.

P.O. Box 390, Whapmagoostui (Quebec) J0M 1G0
tel.: (819) 929-3384 fax: (819) 929-3203

...TO BE HEARD...

I met Alanis Obomsawin, an Abenaki from Odanak, a couple of years ago when she was the president of the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal. I used to go to the National Film Board of Canada where she has been working since 1967. I requested her autograph, or more accurately her signature—on my paycheck.

More recently, I met with Alanis in her Montreal home to discuss her documentary film *Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance*, an NFB production which she wrote, directed and co-produced. Along with numerous other honours, the film was nominated for best documentary film in the recent Canadian Genie Awards.

Alanis Obomsawin is the pioneer film-maker in First Nations film history. She learned different aspects of film making "by doing it." Alanis has been doing this sort of work in different forms for about 35 years. She has many films including *Incident at Restigouche*, about the Mikmaq's struggle to continue their Aboriginal rights to fish salmon in the east, and *Richard Cardinal: Cry From a Diary of a Metis Child*, about the deplorable treatment of a Metis boy who went through the Canadian child welfare system in the west. This film brought about much-needed social change regarding adoption laws. More recently, Alanis has worked on an anti-racism film called *Walker* for classroom education.

The following is an interview with Alanis Obomsawin conducted during the spring of 1994.

By Carole Brazeau

***The Nation*: Your documentary approach has dispelled Hollywood stereotypes. *Kanehsatake* also dispelled media stereotypes of the Mohawks. I was wondering if this was an activist strategy of yours?**

Alanis Obomsawin: Well, I guess a lot of people call me an activist. But for me the main important thing is to have a place for the people to speak for themselves, to be heard directly to the world, and to document the history, to document what's happening in our times and it's like cinema verite. For me it's my passion.

How was your film *Kanehsatake* received?

It's been received very well in Canada in other provinces. In Quebec, there's been some reactions that were upsetting to some people. There's lots of people in this province who really are disturbed by the film. They feel they have learned something they certainly didn't know before and feel that it's a good film. Some people get very upset because they don't like to see themselves, I guess. In the rest of Canada it's been very, very strong, in the same way in the U.S. and in Europe. It's been a very moving experience, to watch people watch this film.

In the *Kanehsatake* film there's the voice of history, the ancestors' voices, and the historical background footage contextualizes the resistance. In addition, well, to me it seems the Pines and the porcupine are given voice too in the film Is that so?

"...to document what's happening in our times... For me it's my passion."

(Laughs) Yes, yes, I'm glad you noticed that. For me the animals are very, very important. So you saw my film, I always have some animals in it. It's a gard life for the animals.

From a historical perspective what kind of impact did *Incident at Restigouche* have in the 80's compared to *Kanehsatake* in the 90's?

Well, it's frightening in a way to know that it's happened again, you know, in a more... (pause)

It was like a flashback?

Yes, it was for me, it was very upsetting to know that there would be again a raid on a reserve by the provincial police. It's a very, very difficult thing to deal with. For the same kind of reasons really, it either has to do with the environment, greediness, you know, for land. They're not very good qualities.

Then again you know the province, the police, then the army on the people, to show with force that they're right and they're going to do what they want to do. I think it was the worst mistake the government has made in a long time.

So when they did that it became a much larger issue. It was no longer just the golf course, it was no longer just Oka, it became the issue of the land of the country, and that was another shock to the people who gave the orders.

So now they had to face the consequences because the consequences are that there's no

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turning back. It's a turning point and every community has changed. It has changed their way of thinking in their lives. Because it's been going on for so many generations and this is a different time now. It's a generation that is getting educated, it's a generation that is not going to believe all the lies like our grandparents did. So it's a different time, and the rest of the country has to realize that and face it.

In the film, Ronald Cross said if anything came of that it was that "it brought all Indian Nations together in this fight. So in a way our battle is won."

It's very true.

What was your experience as a Native woman behind the lines?

Well, it was hell. lit was very, very hard, very difficult for so many different reasons. It was hard for many different reasons but what kept me there was to watch the strength, the courage of those people who made the stand and their generosity.

For me, that's two things that were so important. All the rest it mattered, but not as much as this and for those feelings I never had any question in my mind that I had to do this. It was a historical event and I had to tell the strory, I had to help them tell their story, because I knew, I could see there was not a lot of press people there, not at all times. But I knew that just in watching the news every day, that had it been left at that a lot of people would never know what it was really like in there and what really happened, because the only way to know is if you were there.

If you weren't there, you didn't know what was happening, and I mean behind the razor wire. So I'm very happy I did it, but it was very hard, terrible conditions to work in, sleeping outside on garbage bags and at night it was cold. Didn't have very much clothes and it was awful constantly worrying I would get shot at. Are they going to gas us? Who are they going to take out? You know, when they beat up on one of the Warriors you wondered is that the way they're going to drag them out.

It was very scary especially at night because it was pitch dark. There was no lights at all, you had a flashlight if you were lucky and that's all. So every noise, every move, you know, you watch and you had to always be alert. So I didn't sleep very much, you know you'd sleep half an hour and there would be a yell and right away I was on my feet, slept with my boots and all my clothes that I had to be warm and that's the way it was.

Now do you have a film in progress?

Yes, I am working on a series of short films with the material that I have from there. So I'm making a short film with different people.

Is there anthing else you would like to say in this interview?

...TO THE WORLD...

I don't know, I think what I might like to say is that I find that the most difficult thing was after it was over, you could feel very strongly in Quebec—and it's transpired in the rest of the country—an awful lot more racism and for me it's like a scale. Lots of racism but at the same time also lots more friends. Another side of the scale is that a lot more people would like to see justice done to these questions about the people of the country, people of First Nations. They'd like to see once and for all the governments to sit down and really negotiate with the people.

You hear a lot of leaders say the attitude of the government has slightly changed towards them. Obviously, the government doesn't want to see another type of thing like that again.

So perhaps they take the people more seriously. Maybe, a little bit more respectful, I don't know, this is the feeling I got from some leaders, and you know, the province of Quebec is so different than the rest of the country. Not to say there's less racism elsewhere, there is, there's much. But here it's quite a different story and it was a shock for the French Canadian people here to have such a happening and hearing the word sovereignty from us as if the Indians just began to talk about sovereignty. It's very difficult not knowing our history for French Canadian people to understand this or to know this, and what it all means. So it's a much more complicated situation and the public is often only educated by the journalists who are not always honest or fair.

Well, they distort.

They distort and they tell stories that are not always true. Not to say that we don't have faults. Sure we do, but history is history and up until now everything in history, in general, has been told—the beginning of it is when the white man arrived, and it's not like that at all.

So it's difficult and I undersand that, it's difficult for people of the French world here to cope with all this, so much of it you know, they cope with it by making it all bad, that Indians are bad and so it's like going backwards to the time when the white man came here and thought we were children and inferior and treated us like that. They even made laws that said that, so it's like going back to that kind of world you know partly.

So we have to wait and see. Meanwhile, we all have hard jobs to do—it means educating in every aspect of the way to all people and you can either do that or put yourself in a box and say I'm not going to deal with anybody. But that's not realistic, you have to face what's there.

It's a different world and it's not all bad you know. There are many good things in this world too. So we have to balance it out and do what we can to try and come back to cooperation between people and Nations, that's what we have to think about. I don't like to see anybody hurt no matter who they are. I don't like to see children having hardship or being taught to hate. I don't like that whether it's our side or anybody's side, I don't agree with that. So those are the jobs we have to do.

Meegwetch
Okay.

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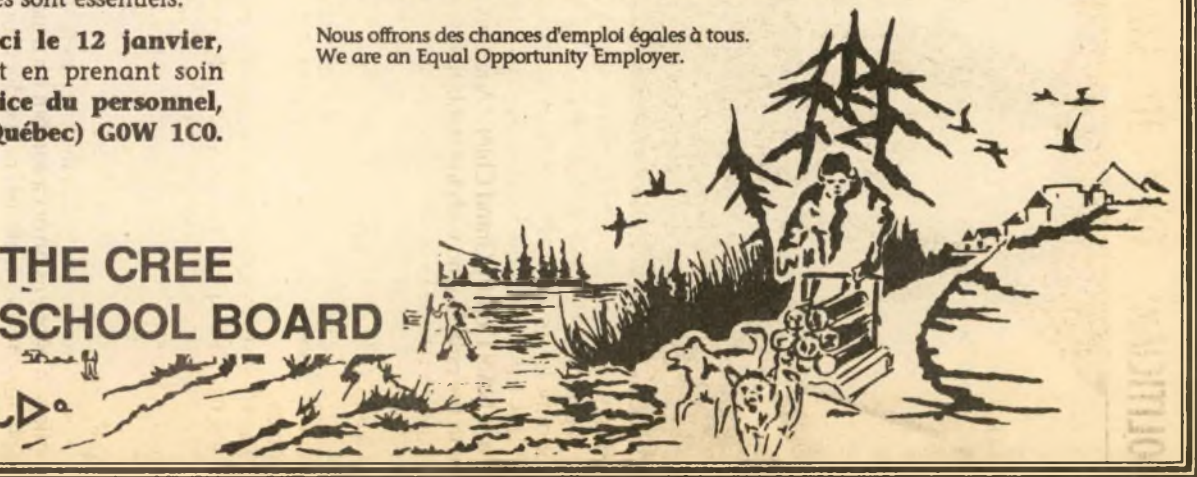

POLITICIANS TOLD TO STAY OUT OF BUSINESS

Business people of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation are complaining that band politics is getting in the way of their affairs. The complaint came at a conference on economic issues in the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation.

"This was one of the loudest messages heard at the conference," said Brian Davey, NAN Deputy Grand Chief. "And they said that politics have to take a back seat to the people who wish to establish their own businesses privately."

Business people came all over the NAN territory to the conference held in Thunder Bay Nov. 29 to Dec. 1. They met privately a day before the conference to discuss their issues before the Chiefs arrived. At the conference, they told Chiefs that very often the First Nations or their economic development departments set up businesses that are in direct competition with the privately-owned companies on reserves.

The Chiefs responded that it wasn't their intention to interfere with private businesses, that there are certain things that they have to do to meet community needs.

"An example would be if there's several homes that need renovations. For the people who don't have the disposable income to renovate their homes, the Chief and Council are going to find a way to get the cheapest lumber possible," the Deputy Grand Chief told *The Nation*.

"And sometimes they find themselves in direct competition with local private suppliers. It happens on occasion but it's usually because of the demand from the people for cheaper materials or products or cheaper services. And they have to respond because most of our communities in the north are about 80 to 90-per-cent unemployed," Deputy Grand Chief Davey said.

He said the Chiefs recognize that at certain times there is political interference and they think businesses should be more supportive of political decisions.

Among the other issues that were discussed at the conference was the need for a forum for businesses to start networking and working together. A resolution was passed calling for such a forum. It would be like an association or Chamber of Commerce-type system for businesses in the NAN region, where information could be shared and the possibility of joint ventures could be discussed.

Also discussed was the establishment of a database of all NAN businesses and possible investors to help with economic support for businesses and First Nations.

The other main topic of discussion was "comprehensive regional economic planning," an idea to gather all individual community economic strategies, along with Tribal Councils and NAN's own strategies. This would show where duplication is happening and help people find areas of opportunities where there's economic trade between communities within the NAN region. The project will establish a system where everyone comes together in helping each other out in providing services. The information would be made available in all Band offices and Tribal Councils and constantly updated.

These projects will be undertaken by NAN and established by mid-1995, Deputy Grand Chief Davey said.

BY PAUL M. RICKARD

FORT ALBANY GETS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

With the growing concern over the response time to emergency situations, the community of Fort Albany will be introducing an Emergency Response Team completely made up of volunteers from the community.

"It would improve the response time of injured people and get the patient from the accident to the hospital faster," said Gisele Kataquapit, community health nurse at the James Bay General Hospital, who initiated the program a year ago.

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) program is the first step through the Ontario Ministry of Health's emergency services program to establish an ambulance service in the community. In the past, community members called upon the First Nation's constables to get injured people to the hospital. In certain situations it was up to individual community members to get people to the hospital by any means.

"Once there were two accidents and it took quite a while to get the people to the hospital. They had to used a sled and snowmachine," Gisele Kataquapit said. "With the ERT the response time will be shorter instead of waiting a long time and people will feel more secure," she added.

The ERT has a total of 10 community members who are trained in CPR, first aid and the Emergency First Reponse program. The volunteers are able to handle any emergency such as accidents, heart attacks or any life-threatening situations. There are also six drivers with CPR and first-aid training.

The training program was set up with the help of the James Bay Ambulance Service in Moosonee. The volunteers are certified as an ERT with the Ontario's Ministry of Health Emergency Services. "The training they received is a scaled-down version of ambulance college, without the theory information," said trainer Robert Marshall, ambulance officer with the James Bay Ambulance Service in Moosonee. "It's a more hands-on approach to training," he added.

Phillip Hookimow, coordinator of the ERT in Fort Albany, said the program will be in place as of December 5, but the team is still waiting for walkie talkies to come in before they can really start.

Before the Ontario government can approve a full ambulance service, the program will be assessed every 12 to 24 months to determine the team's response level and the types of calls made within the community.

—Paul M. Rickard

AIR CREEBEC

It's ours!!!

NAME: Danny Pash

AGE: 23

OCCUPATION: First officer, King Air 200

anny Pash started working for Air Creebec five years ago, and he loves the chance it's given him to fly planes.

here's nothing like climbing through 00 feet and looking down at the ı," says Danny. "Nothing can beat "

e work is hard but rewarding. "If enjoy it and put in hard work it can ıe best job for you," he says

nny, who is from Chisasibi, started ‹ing for Air Creebec as a flight ıdant when he was 18. He was also ‹ing for the Cree airline as a atcher before taking a year's leave of nce to get his pilot's training at rentide Aviation, near Montreal.

completed the training in a one-year nsive course (it can also be done on a e moderate schedule of three years).

Danny obtained his pilot's license last spring and started working for Air Creebec as a first officer/co-pilot on the King Air 200. Asked to describe his first solo flight, he says, "Pretty cool."

Danny wants to gain experience in all aspects of the business. His long-term goal is administration. But for now, his passion is flying and he especially enjoys the chance to fly over the northern terrains served by Air Creebec.

"There's a difference between landing in Dorval Airport with an 11,000-ft unway and all the lights and 20 lowblowers going to clear the nway. Up north it's different with the ather conditions and all." says nny. "I know both Hudson's Bay and es Bay like the back of my hand. re's nothing that beats a bird's eye v."

NINETEEN EXPOSED TO RADIATION IN KASHECHEWAN

NUCLEAR AGENCY ADMITS IT WAS NEGLIGENT

Canada's nuclear agency has admitted it erred in allowing radioactive lights to be installed in three west coast communities without any warnings to local officials.

In one of the communities, Kashechewan, 16 children were exposed to almost an entire year's maximum allowable dose of radiation after some of the lights were broken at a helicopter landing pad in early September.

The children were exposed when some of them found radioactive material inside the lights that glows in the dark, which they smeared on their arms. The radiation exposures spread when the kids came into contact with their friends and health workers. In all, three adult health employees also received doses of radiation.

Kashechewan Chief Andrew Reuben said he holds the Ontario government responsible for the exposures. "If we had been told, we would have made sure all the proper precautions were made or in the other case, we probably would have not approved it anyway (the installation of the lights). That's why they didn't ask us," Chief Reuben said.

The lights were installed in Kashechewan, Attawapiskat and Fort Albany in 1991 by the provincial Health Ministry's Emergency Ambulance Service. Community members weren't told the lights contained a radioactive material called tritium. No one in the other two communities has been affected.

At the time of the incident in Kashechewan in September, there were no warning signs or security to warn people about the potential danger.

Following the incident, the tritium lights in all the communities were removed and replaced with reflectors. In Kashechewan, all but a few fragments were recovered. People are being encouraged to come forward with the fragments through radio announcements and posted notices.

The Atomic Energy Control Board, the federal agency that regulates the nuclear industry, admitted on Dec. 2 that the communities weren't told about the radioactive material before the lights were installed.

The AECB also met with Ovide Mercredi, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, but the meeting left Mercredi wanting. "While they state that this level of exposure is not dangerous, they also acknowledge there is always a remote possibility of damage that will show in the future. Clearly in my view, no amount of exposure to radiation is acceptable," he said.

Government officials attempted to minimize the health impact of the exposures. "Their exposure was very low and there's no health consequences or health problems to be expected from it," said AECB spokesman Bob Potvin in an interview with *The Nation*.

Roger Johnson, a regional official with Health and Welfare Canada, agreed, saying everyone who's been tested is within "normal limits" of radiation exposure. "Tritium has what we call a biological half-life of 15 days, so it should be all cleared, most of it," Johnson said.

Chief Reuben said everybody is telling the community not to worry about it. "But everything is in technical language and it's difficult to translate to make people understand the seriousness of it," he said. "We don't want people to panic, but at the same time this is dangerous."

The AECB says a final report on the incident will be forthcoming in a few weeks and sent to Kashechewan and Chief Mercredi.

BY PAUL M. RICKARD

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development

CANADA

Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Season's Greetings From Minister Ronald A. Irwin

With the festive season just around the corner, I would like to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt greetings to Northern and Aboriginal people and all other Canadians.

I always think of the holiday season as a special time for the children and as a time when families come together. As the International Year of the Family comes to an end this month, we use the holiday times to reflect on special moments of the past with family and friends. I would also like to take this opportunity to continue looking toward the future.

We are seeing positive changes as a result of working as partners with Aboriginal peoples and their leaders. As much as we are working to accomplish real objectives for the day, we are also building strong bridges to the future for our children.

The past year has seen some significant changes being made with Aboriginal communities throughout the country such as dismantling the department as it affects First Nations in Manitoba, pursuing with First Nations and the province co-management of natural resources in Saskatchewan, increased funding for post-secondary Aboriginal students and confirming Mi'kmaq jurisdiction over education in Nova Scotia.

Both Northern and Aboriginal people can feel confident that recognizing their rightful place in this country is a fundamental commitment of this government. The time has come for us to reach deep inside ourselves to find the strength, determination and co-operative spirit to continue working toward our shared objectives and achieving our aspirations together.

The progress we have made together this year is only the beginning, but the relationships we have developed will serve as the bridges to future success.

With this in mind, I would like to wish you all a safe holiday season and a happy New Year. I look forward to continue working with you in 1995.

ALL CREES POINT WITH THEIR LIPS

CREES CAN now merge on in to the superhighway, but there is a problem. We don't have a car. We have a canoe. We have to turn that concrete highway into a river.

That was the theme which returned time and time again during a two-day symposium in Montreal from Nov. 30 to Dec. 1. The James Bay Cree Communications Society organized the Cree Communications Symposium to "provide a forum for learning about new technologies and trends in communications services, and to discuss improvements to communications services for the Cree people," said the introduction paper.

Besides the regional and local organizations which deliver communications services to the communities, there were representatives from various government and private organiztions to show what they have to offer in terms of technology and knowledge.

But the communities weren't shut out from the proccedings. Chisasibi and Nemaska were jacked in via video conference and with audio conference in Whapmagoostui, Wemindji, Eastmain, Waskaganish, Mistissini and Waswanipi. Ouje-Bougoumou couldn't be hooked in because of a lack of phone lines.

The audio and video conference was online for most of the conference. People were able to interact with each other. Video conference is simply talking through the phone with pictures. It's a matter of using two lines on both ends, one for voice, one for video. Voila! you're jacked in. Conferences can be held, courses can be taken.

In fact, the Little Red River Cree Nation in northern Alberta started the Kayas Cultural College last Janurary which links three communities. Two of the three communities are fly-in with no roads. The college delivers Teacher Assistant Certificate and Adult Upgrading. Twenty five people are expected to complete the Teacher Assistant program by June '95. It reduces training from 24 to 14 months. It costs $200,000 instead of $750,000.

There was a link with the cultural institute for part of the conference. They demonstrated how they held their courses. Of course as with any Cree people they took time to laugh and share stories with us in Montreal.

Boyd Williams from the institute noticed through the images that we shared similar gestures when we talked. He then went to say that we probably shared much more than that. Such as pointing with our lips.

There were also demonstrations of the different technology that is available. Working with computers, modems, networks, guided tours of the so-called Information Highway. Satellite systems, digital radio.

The general feeling was that our needs should be identified first before adopting anything. So that we don't end up complicating and getting lost in the technology transfer. To maintain and enhance our Creeness. A Telecommunications Steering Group had been proposed by the JBCCS to determine needs and priorities for communications in the Cree world. The Steering Group meets in Janurary.

There were also achievement awards given to Buckley Petawabano; he was presented with the Elijah Menarick Pioneer Award. Roderick Rabbitskin recieved the Joab Bearskin Regional Broadcaster Award. And Francis Kawapit was awarded the Community Broadcaster Award.

BY ERNEST WEBB

CHIEFS DISCUSS GREAT WHALE VICTORY

BOYCE RICHARDSON

THE CHIEFS of all the nine eastern James Bay Cree communities met in Montreal as part of the Grand Council board on December 7 and 8.

They sat down and discussed the recent victory on Great Whale, Quebec sovereignty, federal and provincial relations, forestry, the Coon Come court case, the policing agreement, Opimiscow Community Fund, Troilus Agreement resolution, housing and the Lubicon Lake Loan.

The first item on the agenda was of a more celebratory nature, with reservations. Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come has written to Premier Parizeau seeking a clarification about the apparent contradiction of shelving the project while allowing Hydro-Quebec to continue with the environmental review process.

In the letter, Coon Come says if the project isn't withdrawn from the review process, it must be assumed that the PQ government wishes to retain Great Whale as part of its energy program. On the plus side is the fact that the project is delayed for many years and that the delay is as significant as winning a very major lawsuit.

On the federal relations front, there has been a possible break-through in the implementation of the James Bay Agreement. The Grand Council has sent Indian Affairs a so-called "protocol" on how it would like the Agreement to be finally implemented. It seems the ministry is likely to give this protocol the green light.

Quebec relations have seen the signing of a policing agreement by mail. A meeting between the Deputy Grand Chief and David Cliche, parliamentary assistant to the Premier for Native Affairs, may apparently be in the works. The main topic of the meeting is to finally arrange a meeting between Parizeau and Grand Chief Coon Come.

Forestry and the damage it has done to the Cree way of life are being looked at. Plans are being made to document the damages and look for solutions.

As a result of Great Whale being shelved Cree Chiefs are reviewing the necessity of the costly Coon Come case.

Other topics of interest included the loan guarantee given by the Grand Council to the Lubicon Crees, which hasn't been repaid as the Lubicons haven't negotiated a settlement with the feds yet.

At the time of printing, *The Nation* hadn't received the information packages concerning the Troilus Agreement, forestry, housing and Opiniscow Community Funds. We will deliver a report on them in the future as the information becomes available.

BY WILL NICHOLLS

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development

CANADA

Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Le ministre Ronald A. Irwin vous souhaite de joyeuses fêtes

À l'approche des fêtes, j'aimerais profiter de l'occasion pour transmettre mes voeux les plus sincères aux populations du Nord, aux Autochtones et à tous les Canadiens.

Les fêtes représentent toujours pour moi une occasion spéciale pour les enfants et une période où les familles se rapprochent. Comme l'Année internationale de la famille prend fin ce mois-ci, profitons de cette période pour nous rappeler les bons moments passés avec les amis et la famille. Toutefois, j'aimerais aussi que nous saisissions cette occasion pour songer à l'avenir.

Nous constatons des changements positifs à la suite de notre collaboration avec les Autochtones et leurs dirigeants. Tout en travaillant à la réalisation d'objectifs concrets dans l'immédiat, nous jetons également de solides bases pour l'avenir de nos enfants.

Les réalisations de l'année qui s'achève démontrent que d'importants changements surviennent dans les collectivités autochtones de tout le Canada. Notons, entre autres, le démantèlement du Ministère, situation qui touche les Premières nations du Manitoba; la poursuite de la cogestion, avec les Premières nations et la province, des ressources naturelles en Saskatchewan; le financement accru pour les étudiants autochtones de niveau postsecondaire et le transfert des compétences aux Mi' kmaq de la Nouvelle-Écosse en matière d' éducation.

Les populations du Nord et les Autochtones peuvent être assurés que la reconnaissance de la place qui leur revient dans ce pays fait partie des engagements fondamentaux du gouvernement. Le temps est venu de puiser au fond de nous-mêmes pour trouver la force, la détermination et l'esprit de collaboration qui nous permettront de poursuivre nos objectifs communs et, ensemble, de réaliser nos aspirations.

Les progrès faits ensemble cette année ne sont que le commencement, et les relations que nous avons établies serviront de bases à nos réussites futures.

Dans cette perspective, je vous souhaite de passer une période des fêtes en toute sécurité et je vous transmets mes meilleurs voeux pour la nouvelle année. J'espère avoir le plaisir de continuer à travailler avec vous en 1995.

I Am Cree, Do You Remember Me?

I am Cree, Do you remember me?
I remember you.
Maybe you've forgotten who I am, but I still remember who you are.
Maybe you've forgotten what I used to do, but I remember what you've done.
I remember what you've done to me.
I've done to myself and to others what you've done to me.
I'd almost forgotten who I was, because you taught me how.
You once told me my ways were the ways of evil.
You once told me your God was better than mine.
Your messengers burned my drum.
You made me learn your law and told me to forget about mine.
I trusted you, I listened to you and you fooled me.
I cannot hate you, because you were once a brother.
You are happy, because you have reached your goal with some of us.
I am happy, because you have not programmed me well enough.
Many years I wondered.
Many years I've lived in the world of confusion.
A part of me is still confused, but the picture is clearer now. My heart is sad, because I just learned about your wicked ways.

I AM CREE
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?

I am the one you put to sleep sometime ago.
I have woken and I am coming home to rise once more,
Never to be put to sleep again.
Do you remember that this land was my home?
I do!
I pray you will understand someday, for what you have done.
I pray you will someday bring your peace. The one thing you forgot to bring when you arrived.
The days are shorter, many things happen, because something is coming.
The world is getting faster and my land is getting smaller.
You don't want to listen to what I have to say, because you are too busy trying to catch up with your world.
Your world is getting faster and my land is getting smaller.
You don't want to listen to what I have to say, because you are too busy trying to catch up with your world.
Your world goes up and my world goes in a circle.
What goes up must come down and what goes around comes around.
You had given away your freedom and I have kept mine.
Some of your people still believe in the Great Spirit and followed good path. I offer them my friendship.
Some of your people have chosen to live with us side by side, I also chose to live with them.
Some of your people have chosen the mighty dollar to be their superior.
I remember mine,
I've been wounded by your ways, but I am healing.
I am Cree and soon I will return to never die.
When I return I will offer you my friendship once more.
I will share with you my freedom,
When I return, you will follow and see your ways have failed you.
Your world is falling apart and mine is just starting to come together again.
I am Cree and soon you will understand me.

I AM IIYUU AND WHO ARE YOU?

I AM YOUNG AND THIS IS ALL I HAVE TO SHARE WITH YOU FOR NOW.

Bertie Wapachee
James Bay Cree
Novemeber 24, 1994

Affichage interne et externe

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CRIE
CONCOURS: MTL-546

LA COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CRIE - EEYOU CHISKOTAMACHAOUN - une commission Scolaire sous le contrôle des Cris, ayant les pouvoirs requis pour atteindre ses objectifs, est responsable de l'education des Cris dans les communités suivantes: Whapmagoostui, Chisasibi, Wemindji, Eastmain, Waskaganish, Némaska, Waswanipi, Mistissini, et Oujé-Bougoumou.

LA COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CRIE, une entité crie créée en 1978 en vertu de la Convention de la Baie James et du Nord Québécois et de la Convention du Nord-Est Québécois, invite des offres de service pour le poste suivant:

COORDONNATEUR DU SERVICE DES PROGRAMMES POST-SECONDAIRE

Sous la juridiction du Directeur de l'Education des adultes et des progammes post-secondaires, le Coordonnateur du Service des Programmes Post-Secondaire comporte l'ensemble des fonctions requises pour l'administration (planification, organisation, contrôle, évaluation) des activités et des ressources reliées aux programmes post-secondaire.

Les services compris sont: l'orientation scolaire, professionelle, sociale et financière, le développement des centres de carrière, l'aide financière et de logement, service social et service de santé, les admissions, le maintien de dossiers d'étudiants, la discipline des étudiants; les services aux étudiants du post-secondaire et programmes post-secondaire pour adultes hors des communautés.

LE COORDONNATEUR

Aide le personnel du service des programmes post-secondaire en supervisant leur tâches, supervise et évalue la performance du personnel et leur en informe;

Travaille étroitement avec les autres services et administrateurs de la commssion, les autres entités cries, les commissions scolaires, les représentants communautaires et les étudiants;

Supervise les programmes concernant l'éducation post-secondaire et programmes pour adultes hors des communautés;

Prépare et développe les politiques et les mandats du service;

Développe des programmes et services requis;

Développe des programmes et des politiques pour le personnel;

Développe des documents d'analyse pour les programmes post-secondaire;

Exécute toutes les autres fonctions et responsabilités assignées à cet emploi et de temps à autre par son supérieur immédiat.

QUALIFICATIONS MINIMALES

Diplôme Universitaire terminal de premier cycle dans un champs de spécialisation approprié à au moins une sphère d'activité des programmes post-secondaire;

Cinq (5) années d'expérience pertinente;

Autorisation personnelle permanente d'exercer dans l'une ou l'autre des fonctions reliées au champ de la vie étudiante reconnue par le Ministère de l'Education.

Connaissance des autochtones, plus particulièrement de ceux de la Baie James ainsi que de la langue crie serait un atout.

LIEU DE TRAVAIL

Montréal

SALAIRE ET CONDITIONS DE TRAVAIL

Le salaire sera basé sur les qualifications et l'expérience en conformité avec les politiques administratives et salariales telles qu'approuvées par le M.E.Q.

Les candidats intéressés peuvent envoyer, en toute confidentialité, leur curriculum vitae accompagné d'une lettre de référence, avant ou pour le à l'attention du:

SERVICE DU PERSONNEL
COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CRIE
203 Main Street
Baie du Poste (Quebec)
G0W 1C0

Periode d'Affichage:

Début d'affichage: 7 decembre 1994
Fin d'affichage: 20 decembre 1994

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CRIE

THE CREE SCHOOL BOARD

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Internal and External Posting

Cree School Board
Posting: MTL-546

The CREE SCHOOL BOARD - EEYOU CHSKOTAMACHAOUN is a Cree-controlled school board resposible for the education of the Northern Quebec Cree People, with special powers, duties and unique goals and objectives to deliver educational services for: Whapmagoostui, Chisasibi, Wemindji, Eastmain, Waskaganish, Nemaska, Waswanipi, Mistissini and Ouje-Bougoumou.

The CREE SCHOOL BOARD, a CREE entity created in 1978 by virtue of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, invites applications for the postition of:

COORDINATOR OF POST SECONDARY PROGRAM SERVICES

Under the supervision of the Director of Adult Education and Post-Secondary Program, this position comprises the responsibility of management (planning, organizing, control and evaluation) of all the program resources related to the service requirements of the Post Secondary level of community adult programs.

The collective responsibilities or services involved include, without limitation, the financial, academic, vocational and social counselling; development of medical and health-related services for the student clientele; admissions, maintenance of student records, student discipline, services to Post Secondary level of community adult programs.

THE COORDINATOR

Shall support the personnel of Post Secondary Program Services by supervising their respective duties; monitoring and evaluating performance, providing feedback to staff members;

Work closely with other Cree School Board departments and administrators, other Cree entities, other school boards, community representatives, and students;

Supervise all programs related to Post Secondary and Secondary level of community adult programs.

Prepare and develop department policies and mandates;

Develop programs and policies for staff members;

Develop position papers representing Post Secondary Services;

Work in collaboration with the coordinator of Financial Services in the financial administration process respecting the said adminsitrative unit;

Carry out other duties assigned by the Director of Adult Education and Post-Secondary Program.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Undergraduate degree in a field of study relevant to at least one aspect of post secondary services;

Five (5) years of relevant experience;

Personal and permanent authorization to carry out one or another of the duties respecting student life as determined by the Ministry of Education.

Knowledge of the Native milieu, specifically that of the James Bay Crees and the Cree language is considered to be an asset.

PLACE OF WORK:

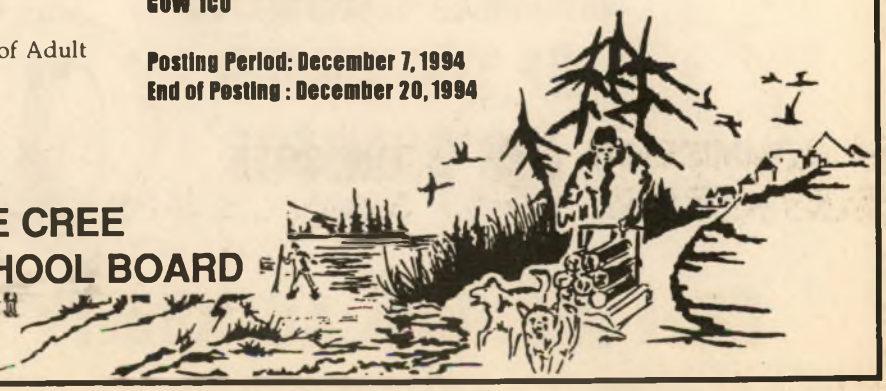
Montreal

SALARY AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Based on qualification and experience, according to the "By-Law on the Working Condition for the Senior and Management Personnel" as approved by the M.E.Q. Interested candidates should forward, in complete confidence their Curriculum Vitae and letters of references to:

PERSONNEL SERVICES
CREE SCHOOL BOARD
203 Main Street
Baie du Poste (Quebec)
G0W 1C0

Posting Period: December 7, 1994
End of Posting : December 20, 1994



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CRIE

THE CREE SCHOOL BOARD

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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from

GRAND COUNCIL OF THE CREES (OF QUEBEC)

CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

POEM

Raven

I am Raven, honour me
I am Raven, know me
Look at me as I fly before you
Admire my plumage, feather womb-black
Ancient mysteries black in a sunny sky

I am Raven, remember me
Think back, look into my plumage
I was there, with you in the womb
When you first thought,
When you knew no other

I Raven, reached out with one wing tip feather
Tickled you gently beneath your chin
Startled you moved for the first time
Your human mother yelled and carried on
Her excitement became your excitement

I Raven, changed tickle to embrace
My womb-black feathered wings around you
When nestled firmly within, I murmured to you
Forgotten language of life poured in your mind
Awareness of being, coming to the foreground
I am Raven, remember me
Lives you lived before were for this time here
Memories of those cycles of life/death returned
Came like a spring break-up on a fast river
A small break into ice water avalanche flooding you

I, Raven, had no more to say, you knew the choice
To the innocence of first-born, I was cruel
I showed you every way you might live
I made you experience every death
In all their tedious detail I flew with you

And now I, Raven, tell you why
Will you choose the mother or yourself?
As you decided, my wings rose up to cover
I took back the memories and the pain
Let you sleep past the pain of rebirth and infancy

Later I, Raven, approach gently as a lover
Sister water talks to you teaching
Father sky breathes life into you
Mother Earth lends you power
Tell no one of those secrets
I, Raven, awaken the memory of your promise

I fully awaken you to your potential
I, Raven, bound in spirit
I, Raven, bound in body
Now is the time... remember me

I am Raven, origin of shaman
I am Raven, honour me

William Nicholls
1994

LETTERS

NORTHERN LANDS AREN'T EMPTY: AUTHOR

Letter to the Editor:

This is in response to the question posed by Christian Dubois, of the James Bay Development Corporation, Chibougamau, in your issue of Nov. 22. He says he cannot find a Corporation document, quoted by me in a piece you published July 29, which referred to the Corporation's impersonal attitude towards the James Bay territory. The piece you published was an extract from my book *Strangers Devour the Land*, published in 1976, and written in 1974, more than 20 years ago.

I have discovered from my earlier book, *James Bay: the Plot to Drown the North Woods* (published in 1972 by the Sierra Club), that the document in question was the Corporation's Initial Phase Plan (of either 1971 or 1972), in which they refer to the region's rivers as "a vast potential now wasting in foam and swirls," the quote to which Mr. Dubois apparently takes exception.

All this may have been before Mr. Dubois' time, but he surely must know that the history of this issue has been studded with statements by proponents of the hydro project, from Premier Bourassa down, to the effect that the land up there is empty, virtually unused, that its marvellous rivers are simply wasting away to the sea (the ex-Premier's unique contribution to our ecological knowledge!), and, in general, that no one up there is really engaged in doing anything useful (except now, of course, the engineers!)

This absurd and inaccurate hyperbole started with the Premier's ridiculous statement when he launched the project that "the world begins today!" and continued right through, at least, to the opening date of LG-2 in the 1980s, when a film on the glories of the project I seem to remember (although I confess I do not keep that film beside me for constant reference!) opened with a statement bearing virtually the same message. As if nothing whatsoever had been learned in the previous decade or more.

Even today, the environmental experts of Hydro-Quebec from time to time produce some real howlers; such as that 80 per cent of the water has been taken out of the Eastmain, with no appreciable effect on the fish! A statement one of them made in my hearing at a meeting in Montreal. If you can believe that, as they say, you can believe anything.

But maybe, at last, we are going to get a rest from all this. Congratulations to everyone for the great victory!

On one thing I do agree with Mr. Dubois. I, too, enjoy *The Nation* and think you are doing a great job.

Boyce Richardson

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Cree Nation of Chisasibi

Season's Greetings

Best Wishes for 1995

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P.O. Box 150, Chisasibi (Quebec) J0M 1E0

tel.: (819) 855-2878 fax: (819) 855-2875

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Cree Nation of Waskaganish

The Crees of Waskaganish pray for peace and wellnes upon all families during this Christmas Season. Our hope is that the message of Christmas will fill the hearts and souls of Cree individuals and families in all our Cree Communities and Cree camps. As we come together this Christmas, let the love of God be extended to everyone.

As 1995 approaches, we look forward to prosperity and success. We know we will have to face difficult challenges as a Cree Nation in 1995. And we will not fail because of our trust in the Creator. Have a wonderful and joyous Christmas this season and a Happy New Year.

P.O. Box 60 Waskaganish (Quebec) J0M 1R0

tel.: (819) 895-8650 fax: (819) 895-8901

WASWANIPI BAND COUNCIL

the Cree First Nation of Waswanipi

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

to all the Cree First Nations & all the people of James Bay from The Cree First Nation of Waswanipi

Edifice Diom Blacksmith Building, Waswanipi (Quebec), J0Y 3C0

tel.: (819) 753-2587 fax: (819) 753-2555

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Nemaska Band Council

On behalf of the members of the Nemiscau First Nation, the Chief and the Council wish to extend our wishes for a very safe and healthy Christmas for all.

We hope that your New Year will see all your families happy and together.

Chief George Wapachee
Deputy Chief Josie Jimiken
Laurence Jimiken, Matthew Wapachee

Champion Lake, Nemaska (Quebec), J0Y3B0

tel.: (819) 673-2512 fax: (819) 673-2542

NEED FOR "MAJOR" REFORM

The following passages are taken from *Maintaining the Pillars of Our Identity*, a report on the Cree Nation Gathering prepared by D. Romeo Saganash for the Grand Council/CRA. The report was just released.

"A CAREFUL ear will note to what extent there is virtually no difference in outlook between the Youth and Elders when it comes to Eeyou/Eenou Astchee. In fact, the importance of the land and the Eeyou/Eenou control of Eeyou/Eenou Astchee remain remarkably constant whoever spearks.

But there seems to be a predicament. Aside from the fact that each group is addressing the concerns of their generation in their unique way—sometimes with nostalgia, at times with fear and other times militantly—a basic conclusion remains, and it is that of the need to debate the reform of our institutions in order that our People completely identify themselves with them. The youth, women, the Elders must not feel excluded from the Nation-building process, but rather we must make every Eeyou/Eenou a full participant in the continued social, cultural, economic and political development of the Nation.

There is a need to redefine and understand what it means to be an Eeyou/Eenou today. And consequently a need to be clear, from that basis, on "where do we go from here?" To achieve the above, maybe a major organizational restructuring is required, but the fact that our people chose to elect another forum to begin this process is singularly significant. It tends to remind us all that the present existing institutions are not necessarily viewed as the appropriate forums where the driving force can be drawn from to achieve the desired change.

And indeed, the experience at Old Nemaska has proven the members of the General Assembly and the leadership ultimately right in their decision to recognize the need and to hold the Cree Nation Gathering in such an admirable setting..."

"IT WAS around 2 a.m. on October 12, 1492 that a crew member on one of Columbus' ships, *La Pinta*, by the name of Juan Rodriguez Bermejo, shouted: 'Tierra, Tierra." From that day on, the world was never going to be the same. It was perhaps difficult to imagine or measure at first how this encounter would change the lives of the people inhabiting the territories on which Columbus landed; most certainly, the encounter of the so-called "Two Worlds" was a painful awakening for the Indigenous peoples.

The dispossession of the lands and fundamental rights of Indigenous Peoples that tragically followed—and continues to this day—is not, of course, the purpose of this report. But one can certainly argue that what commenced in the Mayan country of the Yucatan Peninsula definitely reached Eeyou/Eenou Astchee in April 1971.

'The world begins today' were the exact words the narrator used in the audio-visual presentation Robert Bourassa made to the 5,000 delegates present at the Quebec Colisee that day. The 'Project of the Century' was thus launched without any thought being given to the Indigenous People using and inhabiting the territories to be flooded by the proposed mega hydro-elecrtric developments. And although the rights of the Eeyou/Eenou were clearly protected by law, Robert Bourassa and his Government had decided to take a different approach, totally ignoring the existence of our People, our distinct way of life, our rights and the constitutional obligations of governments towards us..."

INUIT HAVE MIXED REACTIONS TO GREAT WHALE DELAY

The Inuit have mixed reactions to the postponement of Great Whale, says Makivik Corp.

"It's not black and white," said Makivik spokesman Stephen Hendrie. "There were many people who had the same reaction as the people in Whapmagoostui—joyful disbelief because it meant the river which is so beloved was saved."

But Hendrie said some Inuit were not so pleased. "There were some reactions that this project raised some expectations in some communities. We were able to see what some of the potential benefits were."

Hendrie said Makivik won't take a position on Great Whale at the Quebec forum on energy next spring. "We neither publicly support nor oppose the project."

In another development, an embarassing rift has emerged between Premier Jacques Parizeau and Hydro-Quebec over Great Whale.

The utility was rankled when Parizeau recently said he doesn't trust Hydro-Quebec's energy projections. "Never, from my seat, would I support myself on Hydro-Quebec's projections. It's been too long that I've seen them," Parizeau said.

The Premier made the remark as he tried to explain in the National Assembly why he postponed Great Whale.

But the Premier also said Hydro isn't going to stop the environmental assessment process of Great Whale. This means the utility could have the permits it needs to go ahead with construction in two or three years.

Parizeau's comments seemed to irk Hydro spokeswoman Helen Mayer. "Hydro-Quebec is not in the business of building power for no need," she told *The Nation*. Mayer said Hydro stands by its existing development plan, under which Great Whale is expected to start coming on-line in 2003. "As far as I am concerned Hydro-Quebec is on target with its forecasts," she said, adding that the utility's forecasters are "very cautious."

—Alex Roslin

Coming On CBC TV
Maamuitaau

December 17 and 18
Mamoweedow Minshtukch is an annual Cree event that brings people together at the old site of Fort George. **Maamuitaau** highlights the activities and entertainment that took place during the week-long event in July. Also a vignette featuring Sarah Herodier preparing and cooking goose and bannock on an open fire.

December 24 and 25
Join **Maamuitaau** for a special celebration of the holiday season, entertainment and stories from the community of Ouje-Bougoumou. Also, a special Christmas message from a Cree leader, youth and elder. (Dec. 25 6:30 a.m. on CBMT)

January 14 and 15
Maamuitaau recaps the year's major stories that affected the Cree people. Also a look at Cree New Year's resolutions.

Watch **Maamuitaau:**

Fridays	18:00	CBC North and TVNC
	22:00	CBC North and TVNC
Saturdays	06:45	SRC
Sundays	07:30	CBMT
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On Sept. 28 at 4:41 p.m., Joanne Martinhunter (Joseph Jimiken) gave birth to a boy 4 kg 640 gr.

On Oct. 17 at 8:18 p.m., Caroline Grant (Leonard Mattawashish) gave birth to a boy 4 kg 540 gr.

On Oct. 19 at 5:20 a.m., Ellen Mary Capississit (Jimmy James Bosum) gave birth to a boy 4 kg 40 gr.

On Oct. 20 at 8:57 a.m., Coon Joyce Hattie (Johnny Matoush) gave birth to a girl 3 kg 350 gr.

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For more information on the race, call Richard Guay at (819) 755-DEFI.

For more information about getting sponsored, call *The Nation* at (514) 272-3077.

CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

To our baby Whasdeskun: Happy 1st Birthday on Dec. 6. We love you and enjoy every day & moment with you. Love mom, dad, April & Crystal.

Congratulations to a proud family, Redfern, Leonne & Maxine Mark-Stewart for the birth of their identical twins, sons, brothers, born on August 5, 1994. Corey (Kanabouth), 0:45, 5 lbs 8 oz, 18.5 in. & Cayce (Badabin), 05:46, 5 lbs 1 oz, 19 in. Love you all!

Congratulations to Marcel & Maryann on the birth of their son Deverick born on Oct. 16, 1994. We wish you the best, from Leonard, Caroline & Tyrell

Leonard Mattawashish and Caroline Grant are proud to announce the birth of their son Tyrell Louis Philip on the 17th of October, 1994

101-BIRTHDAYS

Happy 1st Birthday to Stephane Gilpin in Wemindji with all our love, mom, dad, Jacob, Marlena & also from everyone who's close to you & from Flora & Jerry. We love you (Dec. 4).

Happy Birthday to my cousins: Scott Atsynia on Nov. 28, Ryan & Delon Linklater on Nov. 29. From: Brianna & Katherine

Happy Birthday to my uncle David from Waswanipi who will be celebrating his birthday on Dec. 6 the same date as mine. With love & kisses niece Whasdeskun

Happy 3rd Birthday to a special girl Brianna on Dec. 15. Love always, Mommy & Daddy. P.S. You are getting bigger & sweeter every day

We want to wish a happy birthday to our lovable grandson, "Gerald Eric Weistche," who will have his second birthday on December 18. From: Grandma/Grandpa Iserhoff with all our lvoe, hugs & kisses

To Scott and Brendan Forward: Happy Birthday on Dec. 23 from Kelly-Ann & Louise & Krystina MacLeod.

Happy 3rd Birthday to my big sister Brianna L. on Dec. 15. Happy Birthday sis! From Katherine. Remember I follow your footsteps.

Happy Birthday to Jane Matoush on December 10. Wishing you a wonderful birthday. May all your exams go well for you. From: Nancy, Mary, John and Helen.

A Happy belated birthday to sweet & lovely neice Katrina Gilpin on Nov. 25/94 and to my aunts Louisa House & Elizabeth Snowboy. I hope you had a wonderful day on your B-days fr. Louise in Chis.

Happy 18th Birthday to a very special person Lisa Pet on Dec. 14th. I love you and miss you very much. Hope to see you on your birthday. Love Leslie in Mistissini.

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A Happy belated birthday to my friend in Waswanipi. Her birthday was on Nov. 1st. I'm sorry I'm so late for your birthday wishes. I hope you had lots of fun and I hope your dreams come true on your Birthday. I miss you. Fr: your friend always in Chisasibi, Louise

We wanna wish my granddaughter, Katrina Gilpin, a Happy Birthday on Nov. 25th. From: Mary, Thomas & Family.

A Birthday wish to my cousins Sylvie House and Stella Sam on Dec. 16 and to my Grandpa George on Dec. 22 and to my cousin Annie in Dec. and to my sister Dinah on Dec. 27. I hope you all have a wonderful day on your b-days. Fr: Louise

I wanna wish a Happy Birthday to my grandmother Alice Sealhunter on Nov. 30. From Anita-Rose Sealhunter

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you! Happy 12th birthday, Brant Gilpin. Happy birthday to you! Celebrating with you in Waskaganish from Gilpin family on Dec. 9.

Happy Birthday to my mommy Jane Matoush on Dec. 10. I love you Jane and Jimmy. From your daughter Julie Grace

I wanna wish a Happy Birthday to my lovely mother Mabel on Nov. 23 and to my tiny little brother Romeo on Nov. 26 and many more to come. From Anita-Rose Sealhunter

We wanna wish a Happy B-Day to Sonia fr. Mist. on Dec. 1. Also to Melisaa B. fr. O-Jay on Dec. 2. We love you gals! Have a great time. Love, Aril & Naomi xoxoxo

Happy Birthday to Noelene Mianscum celebrating 2nd birthday: Dec. 24th. You are, by far, the best CHRISTMAS GIFT sent from above. I love you so much, Grandma N. Mianscum

We want to wish a Happy Birthday to our aunt Janie Wapachee from Nemaska on December 25. We hope Santa brings you a lot of Christmas & Birthday gifts. P.S. have lots of fun on your Birthday and Merry Christmas and many more to come. God bless you. We love you so much. Love: Esther, Noreen, Charlotte and Boy James Wapachee xox

A Birthday wish goes out to the party animal in Montreal Daniel Raymond Joseph White on Dec. 13. Take care my friend an have fun on your birthday! P.S. I heard you like to eat fish from 1420

I would like to send special birthday wishes to two of my special sisters: Anna on Dec. 13 and Emily on Dec. 16. I hope your days and your years ahead will be pleasant... With love always Mina

Birthday greetings going out to two sexy gals Nathalie J. Dec. 16 and to Mary G. Dec. 17 and many more to come!!!! Fr. your drinking buddies P.S. Don't pary too much!!!!!! Take care gals (Mist.)

Birthday greetings going out to Mary B. December 10th and to Sonia B. December 2nd. Many more to come!! Love always, Eva, Stephanie, Frances. We love you both so much!!! xoxoxoxo (Mistissini) take care

Happy 5th Birthday to Bessie-Jane Sam on Dec. 6. Hope you'll have a good time. Love always Rose, George & the girls Wanda & Reggie xoxox

I would like to say Happy Birthday to James Gilpin in Chisasibi and I love you so much HL P.S. I hope you miss me too. Oh yeah, I forgot to write your birthdate Dec. 28/94 xoxoxoxox

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Daniel Joseph Raymond White on December 13th, with all love from: Kathleen and Washy xoxoxox

Happy Birthday to my bro. Jeremy, Dec. 06, to my sis Nellie on Dec. 08, to my dad George on Dec. 10, and my little rascal Chiwetin whose turning 3 on Dec. 18. Love you so much. Janie

I want to wish my grandson John Jodes Longchap. Happy Birthday from your grandma Caroline who loves you very much. Nov. 21, 1994

Happy Birthday wishes to our aunts Anna N. Blacksmith & Janie Mattawashish on their birthdays on December 13. With love & kisses, Teresa & Warren Matt.

We would like to wish a Happy 21st B-day on Dec. 13 to my brother "Iron" Mike in Chisasibi and "if you can't be good be careful." A message from your sister Jeannie and nephew Sebastien in Montreal

A double birthday greeting to our grandsons Ryan & Delon on their 10th birthday on Nov. 29. Lots of love from Granny & Granpa Linklater

Birthday wishes to our Grandfather Isaac Matches which will be on Dec. 14. We love you from your grandchildren Dorianna, Jeremyish, Sammy Boy & Shellyish. Luv-ya! xoxoxox

Happy belated birthday to my friend & 1st cousin who turned 4 on Dec. 4 Willie Sam. I hope you enjoyed your day, with love: Teresa Matt.

We would like to wish Happy 5th Birthday to our daughter Bessie-Jane Sam on Dec. 6/94 and to our son Elden Sam (dambo) who will have his 1st birthday on Dec. 21st/94. From mom & dad and sister Melissa in Chisasibi. And also our brother Christopher Ratt who will be celebrating his 21st birthday on Dec. 25/94. From sisters & brothers (in Chisasibi).

Birthday Greetings to Helen on December 18. Wishing you a wonderful day from Jane, Jimmy, Julie, Nancy, Mary and John.

Happy 1st Birthday to our sweet baby boy Terence on Dec. 15. Love mom & dad, Harry & Dinah Asquabaneskum

Happy belated 1st birthday to our godchild Shayna Matoush on Nov. 12 and Happy 1st Birthday to my baby brother Terence Asquabaneskum on Dec. 15. Love always Matthew, Marjorie, Tia, Matoush

Happy First Birthday to our little brother Terence Asquabaneskum on Dec. 15/94 (Weminddji) Love always, Marjorie, Charlene, Gordon and Glen

Happy Birthday to Kristen Wapachee on Dec. 4 and Miranda Coonishish on Dec. 11 & Arita on Dec. 21 & Keran on Dec. 17. From Jordan Iserhoff-Gull, Hayley Gull from Waswanipi. May God bless and we love you very much.

To our son Gary Lee on Dec. 15th. Happy 11th birthday. We love you, from mom & dad. Happy birthday to my brother Gary Lee & many more to come. Love ya! From your sister Angie Robin xoxoxo

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday and many more years to come to our special dad, Isaac Matches, which will be on Dec. 14. Thanks! Dad for everything and we love you with all our hearts: Love always! Samson, Edith, Christopher & Rebecca

Birthday wishes to my husband Isaac Matches on December 14. Love always: Irene

Happy Birthday to Annie Matches which will be on December 14. From: everybody at Cluster B5-12.

Birthday wish to Darren LcLeod on Dec. 10th, 18 yrs old. From mom & dad & bros

I would like to wish a Happy Birthday and a Happy New Year to my brother Raymond on January 1st/1995 in Eastmain and to Mary in Chisasibi. Love always, Beth in Chisasibi

We would like to wish happy birthday to Noreen Moar from Nemaska, whose b-day is on Dec. 17. Hope you have a great time Noreen, just don't party too much fr. your friends Paula, Jane & Francine

Happy belated birthday to my sis, Tammy Petawabano Coon. I wish you all the best! And may all your birthday wishes come true. Love you always, Bella

I wish to express my love to a special woman on her birthday, my wife Barbara (Nov. 26). Happy birthday and I love you, always from me, Chiweebamakan Clarence

A special happy birthday to my father Chief William Mianscum on Dec. 6 and many more to come. We love you very much from your daughter Nanny, Marc, Jonathan & Kevin Wylde

Happy Birthday to Adriansh in North Bay on Dec. 10. We miss you all, from all of your family in Chisasibi. xoxoxo

I wanna wish a happy birthday to our mother Alice Sealhunter on Nov. 30. From Kathleen, Jacqueline and Winnie

103-ANNIVERSARIES

We'd like to wish our parents, Mary & Thomas Mayappo, a HAPPY 23RD ANNIVERSARY! on Dec. 31st. We love you and we hope this day brings a lot of happiness. From: Your kids, J. D. R. & A.

CLASSIFIEDS CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

CLASSIFIEDS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

300-PERSONALS

Happy 1st Christmas to our dearest son Danny Boy Visitor. We both love you very much. Huggs and kisses. From mom and dad

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I would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year to all my friends (wherever they may be) and to my family in Chisasibi, Wemindji, Eastmain, etc. Also to the wild crowd of the Cree School Board! Have a nice one guys and have fun! Love always, Beth in Chisasibi

400-EVENTS

Future college students: Heritage College, in partnership with the Cree School Board Adult Education Services, offers students from Chisasibi, Waswanipi and Mistissini the opportunity to prepare for academic success by taking the Effective Writing distance education course in their community, January 9 to February 27. Info: Matthew Iserhoff at (418) 923-3347, or your local Adult Ed rep.

500-MISCELLANEOUS

Christmas greetings to Sandra Icebound. It's good to know you are coming home. We want to wish a "Merry Christmas" to you and your family. From all your family in Mistissini. ho ho ho

---

Merry Christmas to Thomas Chakapash and his family in Chisasibi. From Audra and Carole, your friends from school.

To my brother Curtisi, congratulations "player of the week." Keep up the hard work so I can continue to beam!! Thinking of you always, your #1 fan, Irene xoxo

---

We want to wish Merry Christmas to the Matoush family, Edward, Elizabeth and kids, George, Gladys and kids, Donald, Natalie and daughter, Mary and John, baby John Ottereyes, Maggie Matthew, Ottereyes, Louise and Zachery. From Harry and Dinah Asquabaneskum and kids, Matthew and Marjorie, Tia Matoush

---

Hello to Martha Rupert, Evelyne Sam & children in Chisasibi. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year! Hope to see you all soon! Fr: John & Laurie B., Emma M., Ruth J. & the rest of the gang!

Congratulations to Sandra H. in Chisasibi who just received her Bachelor's in Education, from Christopher and boys, Junior, Dale & Timmy

---

OPINION

"WE SHOULD HAVE OUR OWN REFERENDUM"

DEAR CHIEF MATTHEW COON COME, GRAND CHIEF, GCCQ,

I wish to inform you on our uncomfortable situation pertaining to the impending referendum on the sovereignty of Quebec. Us Cree people, Eyouch, Enouch, are people who have inhabited this land, territory since time immemorial. We recognize ourselves as distinct people, Crees first, Canadians second and Quebecers third. We find ourselves caught in a situation where we are pushed to choose our future, at somebody else's choice.

We do not want to be part of a country that wishes to declare sovereignty without our permission. We have lived on this land forever, we do not have anywhere else to go to.

In the past, we have made agreements with the province of Quebec and with the country of Canada, but we do not feel that it was a Cree choice to negotiate any of the agreements that were signed by any of our past leaders on our behalf.

We are a people who are proud, strong and hopefully independent if we are given a chance too. We are not Quebecers or Canadians per say, we are Eyouch, Enouch, people of the land.

We, your people, do not wish to give you a specific mandate on sovereignty, but we do want you to speak on behalf of us on the question of Quebec sovereignty.

We are Canadians by birth, according to the people who stole the land of Quebec and Canada. We should not be put in a position to choose which way to go. We should be the ones asking the Cree people on their future. We should have our own referendum.

Although Billy Diamond and the leaders of that generation signed the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, I feel it is an unjust agreement, a highway robbery for our people who lost their most precious resource, the land that has sustained them for millenia.

Although you say that the land was never given up, it is the belief of the lawyers and governments of the land that the Cree people did give up some rights to the land. That is their interpretation of *their* laws, *but not ours*.

I am disturbed by the prospect of having to go to court to fight for the rights all over again with a sovereign Quebec. With all your experience, you must know why the separatists want to be a sovereign nation, because they want to take all of northern Quebec for themselves.

They know that Cree land is rich in untapped resources, the water and whatever they can do to exploit the land. This is very disturbing, *but true*.

How do we know that we can have a say on what is developed on Cree traditional lands? You know what the answer for that question is, we will be put on the side of the road, like usual.

If you're a truly committed leader, you have to stand up now. You have to let your voice be heard. You have to campaign for us, *publicly*. Let the *truth* be known about the injustices committed to our people. About the blackmail tactics of the governments when it comes to rights and managing the resources on traditional Cree land.

My family never signed any agreement that would give the right of other people to determine which country I should be a part of, or which country should inherit my traditional territory. Only our children have that inherent right.

It is sad to see Cree land being put on the market, the real estate market of a foreign government. It is a sad time for us as a Nation to be once again pushed aside on an issue that could affect our lives and of those who are yet to be born.

It is up to you, as our leader, to make sure that we stay within Canada if our people wish it. It is your turn to push for a *Sovereign Cree Homeland* if we want, too.

We were the first ones who were here, and I believe *our rights* override those of a people who have only been here for a mere 500 years.

Christopher Herodier Snowboy, Chisasibi Eeyou

Quebec and Cree sovereignty are on many people's minds now that the PQ has launched its sovereignty campaign. We welcome your opinion pieces and guest editorials on these issues.

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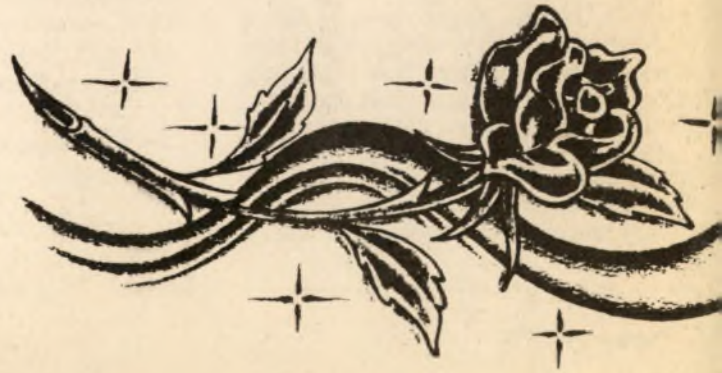

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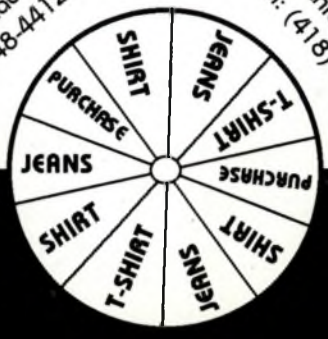

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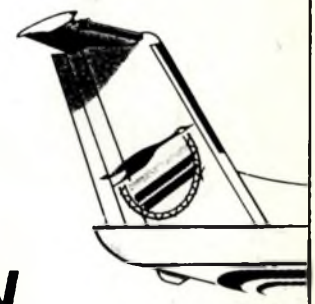

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